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**Testimony in Opposition to
SB 110, AN ACT CONCERNING FRAUD PREVENTION IN
CONNECTICUT'S UTILITY TERMINATION PROTECTION PROGRAMS.
Energy and Technology Committee Public Hearing**

Senator Duff, Representative Reed, Senator LeBeau, Representative Steinberg, Senator Chapin, Representative Hoydick and Members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Lisa Fine and I am a resident of Manchester. I am an individual living with multiple sclerosis and insulin dependent diabetes, my boyfriend is on dialysis and is waiting for a kidney transplant. We rent the first floor of an old house in Manchester.

I am here in opposition to SB 110, An Act Concerning Fraud Prevention in Connecticut's Utility Termination Protection Programs.

We are struggling, like many, to afford our energy costs. We both receive Social Security Disability Insurance payments and I work part-time to make ends-meet. 2013 was the first year Andy and I qualified for LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) funding. I was told, that if Andy were to get a part time job, our household would exceed the income allowable. Though we were both very thankful for the 128 gallons of heating oil we received, it was very concerning because there is so much more to our story than merely our income; our medical bills are exorbitant and because of our medical conditions we must follow strict diets and our food is terribly expensive.

We have been borrowing money to pay our oil bills. We keep our home at a constant 58 degrees. We try to dress in layers but it is very difficult, when Andy comes home from dialysis, he is exhausted and very weak. I have severe pain from my multiple sclerosis and diabetes; wearing layers causes increased symptoms of my MS and the pain is excruciating.

Since Andy and I both live with severe chronic illnesses, we need access to not only heating but also cooling.

As a person with MS, I need air conditioning as a medical necessity. My physician continues to complete paperwork necessary for shut off protection, but I still must pay the bills. Although I have an air conditioner, I am deathly afraid of running it because of the cost of the electricity. When I get too warm, I cannot walk without falling, my vision becomes blurred, my speech is slurred and my cognition is impaired; all of which makes it very difficult for me to do my job.

I also take a medication that needs to be refrigerated. Without this medication, my health will deteriorate.

Connecticut residents living with serious illnesses need protection from utility shut-offs. The definition of serious illness must take into account the needs of people who need energy for cooling and for refrigerating medications.

Please reject SB 110, An Act Concerning Fraud Prevention in Connecticut's Utility Termination Protection Programs.

Thank you.